

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM CORPORATION,
d/b/a GLAXOSMITHKLINE,

No. C 07-5702 CW

Plaintiff,

ORDER ON TIMING AND LIMITATIONS ON SUPPLEMENTAL EXPERT DISCOVERY

V.

(Docket No. 617)

ABBOTT LABORATORIES,

Defendant.

The above-captioned matter comes before the Court on the parties' joint administrative motion to resolve their dispute regarding timing and limitations on supplemental expert discovery. The parties have three main areas of disagreement: (1) whether supplemental reports should be mandatory for all expert witnesses; (2) the scope of those reports and expert witness testimony at trial; and (3) the schedule for expert discovery.

18 First, the parties dispute whether non-damages experts should be
19 required to submit supplemental reports. GSK argues that for some
20 experts, the developments since the last trial had only limited
21 impact on their opinions, and that those experts should be able to
22 elaborate on their opinions in light of new data and events without
23 filing a supplemental report. Abbott argues that Rule 26 of the
24 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires the experts to set forth "a
25 complete statement of all opinions the witness will express and the
26 basis and reasons for them," including "the facts or data considered
27 by the witness in forming them." Thus, Abbott contends, supplemental
28 reports are necessary for all experts, even for witnesses whose

1 testimony is not greatly impacted by developments since the last
2 trial. The Court agrees with Abbott, finding no basis to depart from
3 the Federal Rules in this instance. Each party is entitled to a
4 complete report of the opposing party's expert witnesses. If the
5 intervening years' data has only "limited impact" on an expert's
6 opinion, the opposing party is entitled to be informed of that
7 information. Furthermore, pretrial disclosures will assist in
8 avoiding preventable surprises and delays during trial.

9 Second, the parties disagree on the scope of supplemental expert
10 reports and the scope of expert witness testimony at trial. Both
11 parties agree to permit experts to utilize updated market data and
12 the Court agrees that this is appropriate. The parties disagree on
13 what theories an expert will be able to offer. In the discussion of
14 this question during the January 7 Pretrial Conference, the Court
15 explained its view that the experts' testimony need not be frozen in
16 time and that the experts may update their reports and testimony to
17 account for updated market data. However, exercising its discretion,
18 the Court also held that experts would be confined to testifying to
19 previously-disclosed theories. In its motion, GSK interprets the
20 Court's statement as holding that the parties are precluded from
21 presenting entirely new theories that are inconsistent with the
22 theories already offered, or, in other words, the parties may present
23 new theories, as long as they are consistent with previously-
24 disclosed theories. This broadens the Court's ruling. Expert
25 witnesses will not be permitted to testify to entirely new theories,
26 even those that are consistent with previously-offered testimony.
27 Supplemental reports are limited to updating prior disclosed opinions
28 based only on relevant market events that occurred since the 2011

1 trial. Such a limitation is reasonable and furthers the expeditious
2 and fair resolution of this dispute. Furthermore, GSK has not shown
3 that such a limitation on expert testimony will result in manifest
4 injustice or prejudice. See Cleveland v. Piper Aircraft Corp., 985
5 F.2d 1438, 1450 (10th Cir. 1993).

6 Finally, the parties were unable to agree to a schedule on
7 expert discovery. The parties have not established any reason to
8 deviate from the dates already set by the Court and, accordingly, the
9 Final Pretrial Conference (FPC) remains set for April 8, 2015.
10 Pursuant to the Court's standing order, the parties must exchange
11 (but not file) Daubert motions and Motions in Limine 28 days prior to
12 the FPC, or March 11, 2015. The filing deadline for the motions is
13 two weeks prior to the FPC, or March 25, 2015, with opposition
14 briefing due 7 days after filing, that is, April 1, 2015. The Court
15 sets the following additional dates, in order to permit the parties
16 to complete the necessary discovery in advance of the already-
17 established dates: Supplemental Expert Reports shall be due on
18 February 27, 2015. Rebuttal Reports, if any, shall be due on March
19 11, 2015. The parties may conduct depositions of any experts
20 providing supplemental or rebuttal reports from March 11-20, 2015.

21 IT IS SO ORDERED.

22 Dated: February 17, 2015


23 CLAUDIA WILKEN
24 United States District Judge

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